

Production No. 8F13

The Simpsons

"HOMER AT THE BAT"

Written by

John Swartzwelder

Created by
Matt Groening

Developed by
James L. Brooks
Matt Groening
Sam Simon

This script is not for publication or reproduction. No one is authorized to dispose of same. If lost or destroyed, please notify Script Department.

THE WRITING CREDITS MAY NOT BE FINAL AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR PUBLICITY OR ADVERTISING PURPOSES WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH TELEVISION LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

Return to Script Department
20TH CENTURY FOX TELEVISION
10201 W. Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90035

REVISED TABLE DRAFT

Date 6/21/91

"HOMER AT THE BAT"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
JOSE CANSECO.....HIMSELF
DON MATTINGLY.....HIMSELF
STEVE SAX.....HIMSELF
DARRYL STRAWBERRY.....HIMSELF
WADE BOGGS.....HIMSELF
KEN GRIFFEY JR.....HIMSELF
OZZIE SMITH.....HIMSELF
MIKE SCIOSCIA.....HIMSELF
ROGER CLEMENS.....HIMSELF
BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
CARL.....HANK AZARIA
CHARLIE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
RALPH.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
JASPER.....HARRY SHEARER

PAGE 2

WOMAN (O.S.) /

MRS. KRABAPPEL.....MARCIA WALLACE

DR. HIBBERT.....HARRY SHEARER

EDDIE.....HARRY SHEARER

LOU.....HANK AZARIA

CHIEF WIGGUM.....HANK AZARIA

ARI AMADOPOLIS.....DAN CASTELLANETA

UMPIRE #1.....HARRY SHEARER

DISPATCHER.....DAN CASTELLANETA

HYPNOTIST.....HARRY SHEARER

TICKET TAKER.....HANK AZARIA

CASHMAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA

APU.....HANK AZARIA

TOUR GUIDE.....DAN CASTELLANETA

BARFLY.....HANK AZARIA

NURSE.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)...HARRY SHEARER

HOMER AT THE BAT

by

John Swartzwelder

ACT ONE

Scene 1

FADE IN:

INT. POWER PLANT - NEAR THE COFFEE MACHINE

HOMER sees a new box of donuts on the table.

HOMER

Mmm, donuts. (LICKS LIPS)

He starts shoveling them rapidly into his mouth.

LENNY

Hey Homer, slow down. You're gonna choke or somethin'.

HOMER

Don't tell me how to eat donuts --

(CHOKES ON DONUTS)

Homer starts flailing about wildly, **GAGGING**.

CARL

(NONCHALANT) Hey, Homer's choking again.

LENNY

Isn't there a first aid chart around here somewhere?

LENNY goes to the bulletin board on the wall.

Scene 1
cont

CHARLIE

Pat him on the back or something.

CARL

No, that's the worst thing you could do. Somebody scare him.

CHARLIE

That's for hiccups.

Homer, still choking, **KNOCKS** over a wastebasket.

LENNY

Hey, look at this.

We see Lenny standing in front of a Heimlich maneuver chart of a MAN choking on a lobster. Another MAN has his arms around him.

LENNY (CONT'D)

Softball starts this week.

PAN OVER to a softball sign-up sheet.

HOMER

(COUGHING UP DONUT) Softball?

Homer looks at the sheet. He signs his name.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Who's next?

The MEN shake their heads and AD-LIB, "Not me", "I don't think so", "No way", etc.

HOMER (CONT'D)

What's the matter with you guys?

LENNY

Homer, last year we were two and twenty-eight.

Scene 1
Cont

HOMER

Look, I know it wasn't our best season.

LENNY

Actually, it was.

HOMER

Well, this year's gonna be different.

CARL

Oh yeah. What makes you so damn sure?

HOMER

(SMUGLY) I have a secret weapon.

Homer leaves the room. The men AD-LIB excitement.

LENNY

A secret weapon? I wonder what it
could be.

In dream clouds they imagine what the secret weapon could
be. They AD-LIB comments.

A.) Carl sees Homer using a giant baseball glove to make a
catch.

B.) Charlie imagines Homer using spring shoes to go from
first to second base.

C.) Lenny pictures Homer with a laser gun killing the
opposing team's players.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - ESTABLISHING

— Scene 2

HOMER (V.O.)

Come here boy, I want to show you
something.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - GARAGE

As BART watches, Homer takes a three-foot-long case out
from under his workbench.

*Scene 2
cont.*

BART

What's that? A home-made bat?

HOMER

It's something very special. A home-made bat. (TELLING STORY) It all started last year, during a terrible thunderstorm, when I locked myself out of the house...

RIPPLE DISSOLVE
TO:

HOMER'S STORY

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BACK YARD

Homer is trapped outside the house as the rain begins to fall. We see **FLASHES** of lightning.

HOMER (V.O.)

Sheltering myself with a large piece of sheet metal, I ran for cover under the tallest tree I could find.

Homer holds a piece of sheet metal over his head and runs for the tree. We hear the rain **PINGING** on the metal. A huge **LIGHTNING BOLT** hits the tree and knocks off a branch. The branch falls to the ground and glows. Homer picks it up and looks at it curiously.

HOMER (V.O. CONT'D)

Something told me that this was a very special, very magical, piece of wood.

Score 3

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - GARAGE

HOMER (V.O.)

I put my homemade football on hold and
set to work making the world's greatest
bat.

Homer sets aside a lumpy misshapen homemade football. The letters "NFL" are crudely written on the side. Homer starts planing off strips of wood from one side of the branch.

QUICK SHOTS

- A.) Homer sawing the smaller branches and leaves off.
- B.) Homer hammering nails into the branch.
- C.) Homer, wearing a welders mask, using a blow torch on the branch.

MARGE

Homie, come to bed.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM

Homer is in bed planing the bat. Strips of wood fly into the bed.

MARGE

Homer, go back to the garage.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE
BACK TO:

BART AND HOMER

Bart seems interested. Homer opens the case. We see a nice homemade bat labeled "Wonder Bat".

HOMER

And here it is.

BART

Wow! How many home runs you gonna hit
with that?

Scene 3
cont.

HOMER

Let's see... we play thirty games...
ten at bats a game... three thousand.

BART

(IMPRESSED WHISTLE)

EXT. PARK - SOFTBALL DIAMOND

The small stands are crowded with WIVES, and FAMILIES of the players. On the backstop there's a sign reading "City Softball League. Opening Day. Nuclear Plant Vs. Springfield Police."

ON THE FIELD

— Scene 4

MUSIC: "FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN"

We see Homer's team which looks pretty bad. The FIRST BASEMAN is drinking a beer from a keg which is next to the bag. Outfielders CARL and a WORKER are tossing a softball back and forth but don't come close to catching it.

LENNY

Hit one here, Charlie.

Charlie stands at home plate and tosses up a ball to hit. He misses the ball but throws the bat which hits Lenny in the shin. Lenny **SCREAMS** in pain. Homer walks up to home plate where the UMPIRE and CHIEF WIGGUM -- who plays on the police team -- are waiting.

UMPIRE #1

Okay, let's go over the ground rules.
You can't leave first until you chug a
beer. Any man scoring has to chug a
beer. You have to chug a beer at the
top of all odd numbered innings. Oh,
and the fourth inning is the beer
inning.

Scene 4
Cont.

WIGGUM

(IMPATIENT) Hey, we know how to play
softball.

OVERHEAD SHOT

The players take their positions on the field. Their families **CHEER**. The game begins.

EXT. PARK

Chief Wiggum is at bat. Suddenly an urgent call comes over the police **RADIO** in the cop dugout, just as a pitch is delivered.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

(THROUGH RADIO) Attention all units!

Armored car being robbed at...

Wiggum, distracted, swings and misses by a foot.

WIGGUM

(IRRITABLY) Turn off that damn radio!

One of the cops in the dugout **CLICKS OFF** the radio.

IN THE POWER PLANT DUGOUT

One of the players suddenly **YOWLS** in pain. We see that Lenny has given him a hotfoot and is in the process of giving one to another player. The rest of the players **LAUGH**.

HOMER

(LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY) It's funny cuz it
hurts!

ON THE FIELD

A **POLICEMAN** takes a terrific swing and hits the ball into a distant swimming pool for a home run. As he trots around the bases, all the **PLAYERS** on the cop bench jump up and **FIRE** their guns in the air.

WIGGUM

Men! Stop that!

Score 5

IN THE STANDS

MARGE is making a videotape of the game. She is doing a play-by-play into the camera's microphone.

MARGE

And the next man wants to hit the ball too. And he does. And there he goes off in that direction. And everyone is happy.

BART

Why don't you let me call the game, mom?

MARGE

That's all right dear. I can do it.

EXT. PARK - LATER

CLOSE-UP - SCOREBOARD, NINTH INNING

The police are leading 5 to 2 in the bottom of the ninth inning.

ON THE FIELD

The power plant team is up to bat.

CARL

Hey, Homer, bases loaded and you're up.
Where's that secret weapon?

HOMER

Right here.

Homer takes "Wonder Bat" out of its case. The men look stunned.

LENNY

Your secret weapon is that you've got a lousier bat than everyone else?

Scene 5
cont

HOMER

This bat is special. You'll see.

SFX: DRAMATIC MUSIC

IN THE STANDS

Marge, Bart and LISA look on intently.

ON THE FIELD

The pitcher lobs a high slow pitch. With a mighty swing, Homer launches the ball far over the OUTFIELDER'S head and onto a FAMILY having a picnic. The crowd CHEERS.

HOMER

Woo hooooooo!

Homer trots around the bases, doffing his cap, as in the background the father of the family having the picnic holds his bloody head and rocks back and forth in pain.

IN THE POWER PLANT DUGOUT

The players CHEER.

LENNY

Maybe this year is gonna be better.

ON THE FIELD

Homer crosses the plate and passes the police dugout. He AD-LIBS, "Ha ha!", "Cops can't win!", etc. Wiggum turns to EDDIE.

WIGGUM

Get his license and registration.

EDDIE

Right, Chief.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

— Scene 6

We see Homer running the bases. PULL BACK to reveal we're watching the same scene on TV.

Score 6
Cont.

ON TELEVISION

We see Homer hit the home run at normal speed. It backs up and plays again. Homer sits on the couch watching Marge's tape of the game with Bart and Lisa.

LISA

(ADMIRINGLY) Wow, dad.

BART

Homer, can I get you a beer?

LISA

No, I want to get him a beer.

HOMER

Kids, kids. You can each get me a beer. But first let's see it again in super slow motion.

ON TELEVISION

In slow motion, we see Homer's flab bouncing all over the place as he swings; the way he clamps his eyes shut before making contact with the ball; and the startled look on his face when he hits the ball.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE

MUSIC "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" done in a railroad train sounding arrangement. During the following we see an overhead shot of softball games in progress and pennants saying: "East Springfield", "Springfield Heights", "South Central Springfield", "Fort Springfield", dissolving in and out, with the occasional shot of train wheels.

A.) Homer points to the stands, then hits the ball the other way. He thinks for a moment, then starts pointing that way.

B.) Lenny gives the opposing pitcher a hotfoot and the pitcher bursts into flames and runs off. Everyone on both benches busts a gut.

C.) All the players are holding their own homemade magic bats. Carl's is made from a piano leg.

Scene 6
cont

CARL

Hey, I got mine off a piano.

CHARLIE

My sister let me use her wooden leg.

D.) A score board reads Power Plant 42, Retirement Castle 0. Homer's team is really WHOOPING it up.

JASPER

(BITTER) Wait till next year. (BEAT)

If I'm still alive.

E.) With his glove in his teeth, HERMAN pitches to Homer. Homer takes a huge cut and clouts a homer. APU is in centerfield. He watches the ball go over his head. The crowd OOHS and AHHS.

APU

Such a mighty wallop.

F.) Marge turns the pages of a scrapbook devoted to Homer's exploits. A headline reads, "Power Plant Wins Again". Tiny articles from the paper have Homer's name circled. Marge has also circled "homer" in "Wiggum hits a homer."

G.) The team bus passes a burning building. Everyone LAUGHS.

HOMER

(LAUGHING) Good one, Lenny.

- Scene 7

EXT. SPRINGFIELD TOWERS

CAMERA PANS up a 1200 foot skyscraper that dominates the Springfield skyline. At the top is a plush-looking penthouse. A sign on the door says "Millionaire's Club." A smaller sign reads, "You must have more than this to enter: \$1,000,000."

INT. MILLIONAIRE'S CLUB

Burns and ARISTOTLE AMADOPOLIS are lunching in an exclusive corner of the room.

Scene 7
cont

BURNS

Why DID they get rid of indentured servitude, does anybody know?

ARI

Someone was asleep at the switch, I can tell you that.

Suddenly SMITHERS rushes in.

SMITHERS

Good news, sir! The plant's softball team has won again. If we beat Shelbyville next week we capture the pennant.

BURNS

Did you hear that, Ari? My boys need only to thump your tub and the title is ours.

ARI

My gladiators will crush your team like nine flabby grapes.

BURNS

(COLDLY) I disagree.

ARI

Would you care to bet a million dollars on it?

BURNS

If we're going to bet, why don't we make it interesting?

Scene 7
cont

ARI

(PUZZLED) What? A million dollars
isn't interesting to you?

BURNS

Oh, did you say a million? I'm sorry,
my mind was elsewhere. I thought you
would start with a small amount, then
we would bait each other and... well,
you know how it goes. Certainly, a
million will be fine.

They shake hands.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Scene 8

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BURNS' OFFICE

Burns is standing, admiring something on his wall that we can't see.

BURNS

Tell me, Smithers. You've seen the
Power Plant Nine in action... Would you
bet a million dollars on them?

SMITHERS

What answer would you like me to give,
sir?

BURNS

I would like you to say, "No."

SMITHERS

No, sir, I would not bet on them.

BURNS

I couldn't agree more. That's why I've
decided to bring in a few ringers.

Professional baseballers.

Burns indicates a chart on the wall. It shows an infield of Cap Anson, Napoleon Lajoie, Honus Wagner, Pie Traynor, an outfield of Shoeless Joe Jackson, Harry Hooper and Jim Creighton. The catcher is Gabby Street. And the pitcher is Three Finger Brown.

Scene 8
cont

BURNS (CONT'D)

We'll give them token jobs at the plant
and then have them play on our softball
team. Honus Wagner, Cap Anson,
Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown...

SMITHERS

Uh... sir...

BURNS

What is it, Smithers?

SMITHERS

I'm afraid... all those players have
retired and... uh... passed on. In
fact, your right fielder has been dead
for a hundred and thirty years.

BURNS

Damnation! Alright, find me some good
players. Living players! Scour the
professional ranks. The American
League. The National League. The
Negro Leagues. The Piedmont League.

SMITHERS

I'm on my way, sir.

BURNS

Oh, and Smithers... (OMINOUSLY) You
have twenty-four hours.

Smithers reacts.

Scene 9

INT. BASEBALL CARD SHOW

Next to a large sign that says "In Person: Jose Canseco" is JOSE CANSECO signing autographs. Next to him is Smithers, who is holding a satchel with a large dollar sign on its side. Smithers is **WHISPERING** in Jose's ear. Jose finishes signing an autograph, then turns to Smithers.

JOSE CANSECO

I get \$50,000 to play one game?

SMITHERS

That's right, Mr. Canseco.

JOSE CANSECO

Well, it's a pay cut. But what the
hey, it sounds like fun.

They shake hands.

EXT. WOODS

Smithers walks out of the woods towards MIKE SCIOSCIA, who is doing some hunting. Scioscia, not seeing him, **FIRES** a few bullets. One grazes Smithers.

SMITHERS

Ow.

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Hey, sorry! I thought you were a deer.

SMITHERS

That's okay, happens all the time. Are
you Mike Scioscia?

MIKE SCIOSCIA

That's me.

SMITHERS

Uh, how do you like working for the
Dodgers?

*Scene 9
cont*

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Well, it's okay. But sometimes I wish
I had something a little more blue
collar. You know, with big machines
and cool dials and stuff, like an oil
refinery or a uranium processing plant.

SMITHERS

We should talk.

— Scene 10

EXT. SOUTHERN MANSION - ESTABLISHING

We see musical notes on the gates.

INT. SOUTHERN MANSION

OZZIE SMITH is taking a tour of the mansion. He has a
camera around his neck.

TOUR GUIDE

And this is Elvis' rec room. When the
King wasn't rehearsing or exercising,
he liked to unwind by watching up to
three TVs at once.

OZZIE SMITH

Man, oh, man, what a lifestyle.

He takes a picture and starts to leave. Smithers
approaches wearing a t-shirt that shows a rock star in a
white jumpsuit, and a "TCB" hat.

SMITHERS

Excuse me, are you Ozzie Smith?

OZZIE SMITH

Yes.

SMITHERS

I have a proposition for you...

*Scene 10
cont*

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

Smithers **RINGS** the doorbell. DON MATTINGLY answers. He is wearing rubber gloves and drying a dish.

SMITHERS

Excuse me, are you Don Mattingly?

DON MATTINGLY

Yes, yes I am. Come in. Come in. Can

I get you something? What's your name?

He pulls Smithers inside.

INT. NIGHT CLUB

We see STEVE SAX **PLAYING** the **BASS** with two **OLDER MEN** behind him, playing the **PIANO** and **DRUMS**. "The Steve Sax Trio" is written on the drum set. Smithers stands next to Steve Sax onstage.

SMITHERS

How would you like to be a ringer on a
small town company softball team?

STEVE SAX

Would I!

Steve spins the bass once.

INT. POWER PLANT - "WELCOME ROOM"

- Scene 11

Burns is at a microphone, flanked by his newly hired players. As each player is introduced he steps forward, **AD LIBS** his hello, and receives polite **APPLAUSE** from the gathered workers.

Scene 11
cont

BURNS

And now I'd like to introduce the new members of our happy power plant family. Our new security guard... Roger Clemens... our new janitor, Wade Boggs... our new lunchroom cashier... Ken Griffey, Jr.... our new, well, we'll find jobs for these fellows later... Please say hello to Steve Sax, Don Mattingly, Darryl Strawberry, Ozzie Smith, Mike Scioscia, and Jose Canseco.

The employees look puzzled and AD LIB: "What's he talking about? Wade Boggs?"

BURNS (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, you new fellows, there's a sign up sheet for the company softball team on the bulletin board over there if you wish to play.
(GHOULISH LAUGH)

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Thanks just the same, but I'm here to run the solid contaminant encapsulator.

BURNS

One more outburst like that and I'll send you back to the big leagues!

The players file over to sign up.

*Scene 11
cont*

LENNY

Wait a minute, Mr. Burns. With them on
the team, you won't need us!

BURNS

Well, duh.

Homer notices DARRYL STRAWBERRY.

— Scene 12

HOMER

You're Darryl Strawberry.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Yes.

HOMER

You play right field.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Yes.

HOMER

I play right field too.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

So?

HOMER

Well, are you better than me?

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Well, I've never met you, but yes.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family is having dinner. Homer is moping.

Scene 12
cont

HOMER

It's not fair. Me and the guys worked so hard to get to the championship game and now we'll be sitting on the bench.

MARGE

But you hit so many home runs this year. I don't see how even Darryl Strawberry can be better than you.

HOMER

Marge, forget it. He's bigger than me, faster than me, stronger than me and he already has more friends around the plant than I do.

BART

You make me sick Homer. You're the one who told me I could do anything if I put my mind to it.

HOMER

Well now that you're a little bit older, I can tell you that's a crock. No matter how good you are at something, there's always about a million people better than you.

LISA

But Dad! You turned a rag-tag bunch of misfits into the winningest team in Springfield history.

Scene 12
cont

HOMER

Hey, you're right. What else did I do?

BART

You saved seven bucks by making your
own bat.

MARGE

And you made us all very proud.

HOMER

Wow! With a family like this, I can't
fail. Here's what I'm going to do to
that Strawberry.

Homer picks up a strawberry and **SQUISHES** it in his hand.
It **SQUIRTS** all over his white shirt.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

EXT. PARK - SOFTBALL DIAMOND

— Scene 13

The players have gathered around Burns. The major leaguers
are wearing their real uniform numbers and have their last
names on the back of their uniforms. Burns is wearing a
baggy 1906 Springfield Zephyrs uniform.

BURNS

As your new manager, I will be making
some sweeping changes. Firstly,
instead of beer, from now on you will
all be drinking this!

Burns holds up an 1890's style bottle.

Scene 13
cont

BURNS (CONT'D)

It's a brain and nerve tonic. Rich in
proteids and electromagnetic juices.

It keeps you young. Of course, it has
been known to promote gigantism, but
only in rare cases. Try some.

Burns pours some into a teaspoon and holds it out to Ken
Griffey, Jr. He **GULPS** it down, then smiles happily.

KEN GRIFFEY JR.

Wow! That's great! You can really
taste the proteids.

Ken takes the bottle and **DRINKS** some more. [From now on,
whenever we see Ken Griffey, Jr., he is drinking this
tonic.]

BURNS

Excellent. Now, let's begin our
training, shall we? Smithers -- the
medicine balls.

Smithers rolls a few medicine balls out on the grass. The
players **GROAN**.

TRAINING MONTAGE

A.) The players are working out with medicine balls and
lifting old-fashioned barbells.

B.) **STEVE SAX** is being vibrated by an old-fashioned weight
reducing belt machine. Homer is in a steam box.

C.) Burns watches, nodding, as the players eat big tough
steaks. One of the players, **CHARLIE**, seems to have chest
pains.

CHARLIE

(CHEST PAIN NOISES)

D.) Burns shows the players how to bunt. The pitch hits his
bat and knocks Burns to the backstop.

Scene 13
cont

E.) Roger Clemens hurls an underhand fastball to Jose Canseco, who wallops it deep into right field. Darryl Strawberry makes an amazing catch and throws it to nail a sliding Ozzie Smith at home plate. [All of this should go as quickly as possible.]

- Scene 14

SMITHERS

Looks like that bet's in the bag, sir.

BURNS

Never underestimate the power of
positive cheating.

F.) Homer is in right field. A ball is hit to him.

HOMER

I got it! I got it!

The ball hits the heel of his glove and pops out. Darryl slides into frame and catches it effortlessly.

BURNS

Way to back him up, Strawberry.

HOMER

Hey! He wouldn't have caught it if I
hadn't dropped it.

BURNS

Shut up!

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Some of these guys have a bad attitude,
skip.

BURNS

They sure do, Strawberry.

Strawberry preens.

G.) A HYPNOTIST is swinging a pocket watch back and forth in front of the players as Burns watches, nodding.

*Scene 14
cont*

HYPNOTIST

You are all very good players.

ALL PLAYERS AT ONCE

(HYPNOTIZED) We are all very good
players.

HYPNOTIST

You will beat Shelbyville.

ALL PLAYERS AT ONCE

(HYPNOTIZED) We will beat Shelbyville.

HYPNOTIST

You will give one hundred and ten
percent.

ALL THE PLAYERS

(HYPNOTIZED) That's impossible no one
can give more than one hundred percent.
By definition that is the most any one
can give.

- Scene 15

H.) Homer stands at the plate holding his "Wonder Bat."
Roger Clemens stands on the mound.

HOMER

(TO SELF) These guys aren't so tough.

I've got "Wonder Bat."

Roger Clemens hurls a fast ball. Before Homer can even
move his bat, the ball hits it, **SHATTERING** his bat. Homer
stands there, holding the smoking stump.

I.) Ozzie Smith is dressed in shorts and a Hawaiian shirt
with a camera around his neck. He is holding a map to the
tourist spots in Springfield. He is standing before the
statue of Jedediah Springfield.

Scene 5
cont

OZZIE SMITH

Magnificent, simply magnificent.

MOE

You from outta town?

OZZIE SMITH

Yes.

MOE

Have you been to the Museum of Barnyard
Oddities yet?

OZZIE SMITH

(EXCITED) No! Where is it?

MOE

Here, gimme the map. I'll show you.

J.) Burns adjusts Darryl Strawberry's batting stance until
he looks like an 1870's player with his hands far apart on
the bat. Strawberry takes a few practice swings.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

(EAGERLY) Like this, Skip?

BURNS

You're a manager's dream, Strawberry.

HOMER

(MOANS)

K.) At first base, Burns watches Mattingly scoop a short
throw out of the dirt.

BURNS

Mattingly! Get rid of those sideburns.

DON MATTINGLY

What sideburns?

Scene 15
cont

BURNS

You heard me, hippie.

Burns walks away. Mattingly watches him go, baffled.

— Scene 16

L.) A bunch of KIDS are lined up to be chosen for a game. Ken Griffey Jr. is standing in the line, looking three-times as big as the kids. Bart and Ralph are co-captains.

KEN GRIFFEY JR.

Pick me! Pick me!

RALPH

I pick Ken Griffey Jr.

BART

(GROANS) Aw geez... okay, I'll take Milhouse.

Wade Boggs walks past the playground.

RALPH

Hey, Mr. Boggs! Will you be on my team?

WADE BOGGS

You got yourself a player.

BART

Damn! All right, I'll take Lewis.

Jose Canseco walks by.

RALPH

I'll take Jose Canseco.

BART

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

Scene 17

INT. POWER PLANT

Mike Scioscia and Carl are pushing wheelbarrows full of glowing contaminated material. Scioscia is **WHISTLING** happily.

CARL

Scioscia, I don't get it. You're a ringer but you're here every night, in the core, bustin' your butt on the graveyard shift.

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Well Carl, it's such a relief from the pressures of playing big league ball.

I mean, there you make any kind of mistake and boom, the press is all over you.

Mike tips the wheelbarrow and spills the glowing green sludge on the floor.

MIKE SCIOSCIA (CONT'D)

Uh-oh.

CARL

Don't worry about it.

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Oh man, is this ever sweet.

EXT. BALL FIELD

Jose Canseco is taking batting practice. We hear a woman's voice off screen.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Jose... Jose... (SING-SONG) Jose.

Scene 17
Cont

JOSE CANSECO

What!

He turns and sees MRS. KRABAPPEL sitting in the nearby stands.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

Edna Krabappel, fourth grade teacher. I know how you could add ten points to your batting average.

JOSE CANSECO

How?

MRS. KRABAPPEL

Stand back in the box, open up your stance and start getting it regular.

JOSE CANSECO

Boing.

EXT. BALL FIELD - NEAR DUSK

-Scene 18

The players are just finishing practice for the day.

BURNS

Take a knee boys.

The players gather around him and drop to one knee. PAN ACROSS the players as Burns addresses them.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Tomorrow is the biggest day of your lives. So lights out at seven-thirty and abstain from coffee, tea, and cola drinks. Make no mistake, they pack a wallop.

Scene 18
Cont

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Sure do, Skip.

BURNS

Now, before I post the starting line-up
I want to assure those of you whose
name is not on the list, that I'm very
disappointed in you. Something was
lacking, let's call it heart.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

No hustle either, Skip.

BURNS

That's right, Darryl.

With great ceremony Burns posts the line-up. The players
gather around eagerly. The regular plant players look
crestfallen, the major leaguers are jubilant.

LENNY

(LOOKING AT LIST) Aw, nuts!

Homer walks over to look at the line up.

HOMER

Please, please, I want to make the
team. Roger, did I make the team?

ROGER CLEMENS

You sure did, buddy.

HOMER

I did! Whoo-hoo! Whoo-hoo! In your
face, Strawberry!

ROGER CLEMENS

Wait a minute, are you Ken Griffey Jr.?

Scene 18
cont

HOMER

No.

ROGER CLEMENS

Oh, sorry, I didn't mean to get your
hopes up.

Homer goes and looks at the list.

HOMER

(MOANS) Lousy Burns. Good luck
winning without me.

STEVE SAX

(TOSSING BALL) Hey Homer! Think fast!

HOMER

(TURNING) Think what?

The ball **HITS** Homer on the head.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Scene 19

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPRINGFIELD SUBURBS - DUSK

A car is slowly cruising down a pleasant tree-lined street.

INT. CAR

Steve Sax is admiring the area.

STEVE SAX

(TO HIMSELF) What a nice little town.

Maybe I'll buy a home here when I
retire.

SFX: SIREN

Steve Sax sees flashing lights behind him. He pulls over.

STEVE SAX (CONT'D)

What seems to be the problem, officers?

EDDIE

That's enough out of you, smart guy.

LOU

Reach for your license... slowly.

He pulls a gun on Steve Sax. Sax hands him his license.

EDDIE

(READING LICENSE) Well well, Steve Sax
from (CONDESCENDING) New York City.

Scene 19
Cont

LOU

I heard some guy got killed in New York
City, and they never solved the case.
You wouldn't know anything about that -
- would you Steve?

EDDIE and LOU **CHUCKLE**.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

Wade Boggs and Barney are having a **BELCHING** contest.

WADE BOGGS

(BELCH)

BARNEY

You call that (BELCH) a belch? Well,
(BELCH) listen to (BELCH) this.
(PAUSE) (BELCH).

WADE BOGGS

(HANDING HIM CASH) You're the best,
Barney.

BARNEY

Easiest five grand I ever made.

EXT. "THE OFF RAMP INN" - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

- Scene 20

INT. KEN GRIFFEY JR.'S MOTEL ROOM

We hear a quiet **KNOCK** at the door.

SMITHERS (O.S.)

(QUIETLY) Bed check --

The door opens as Burns and Smithers enter. Smithers
carries a clipboard. The clock near the bed reads "7:32".
We see that Ken Griffey Jr. is asleep in bed, **SNORING**.

*Scene 20
cont.*

CLOSE UP - CLIPBOARD

Smithers makes a check by Ken Griffey Jr.'s name.

INT. JOSE CANSECO'S MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We hear a quiet **KNOCK** at the door.

SMITHERS (O.S.)

(QUIETLY) Jose, bed check.

The door opens as Burns and Smithers enter. They check his bed and see a crude dummy of Jose Canseco with a baseball cap and a smiley face painted on a pillow. They are satisfied. Smithers makes a checkmark.

INT. MIKE SCIOSCIA'S MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We hear a quiet **KNOCK** at the door.

SMITHERS (O.S.)

(QUIETLY) Mike... Mike... Mike?

Smithers throws open the door, sees an empty bed and **GASPS**.

SMITHERS (CONT'D)

Where the hell's Mike Scioscia?

INT. HOSPITAL

Mike Scioscia is laying in a hospital bed. DR. HIBBERT is looking at his chart. A NURSE is running a Geiger counter over Scioscia. It **CLICKS** wildly.

DR. HIBBERT

Mike, try to lift your arm.

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Can't... lift... arm... or... speak...

at... normal... rate.

Dr. Hibbert shakes his head disapprovingly.

*Scene 20
cont*

DR. HIBBERT

Well, I'm afraid you have a case of
acute radiation poisoning, Mr.
Scioscia.

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Will... I... be... able... to...
play... softball... tomorrow?

DR. HIBBERT

(CHUCKLES) No, by tomorrow you'll
barely be able to breathe.

MIKE SCIOSCIA

Oh... man.

NURSE

Dr. Hibbert, Ken Griffey, Jr. needs to
see you immediately.

Ken Griffey, Jr. comes into the office still drinking a
bottle of the brain and nerve tonic. His head and limbs
are swelled up enormously.

DR. HIBBERT

Good Lord! Worse case of gigantism
I've ever seen.

- Scene 21

INT. MRS. KRABAPPEL'S BATHROOM

Jose Canseco and Mrs. Krabappel are in the bathtub together
a la BULL DURHAM. They are surrounded by lit candles.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

(LOVINGLY) Jose, I think I'm beginning
to fall in love with you.

JOSE CANSECO

Cool.

Scene 21
cont.

They stare at each other for a beat.

JOSE CANSECO (CONT'D)

Mrs. Krabappel, let's leave here. We
can go to another town, change our
names. No one will ever find us.

MRS. KRABAPPEL

(DREAMILY) Oh, Jose! (PAUSE, THEN

SHARPLY) Get your pants on. Let's go.

As they start to get out of the tub, water **SLOSHES** over the
side, extinguishing some of the candles.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marge and Homer are in bed. Homer is sitting up sadly.

HOMER

(MOANS) One thing I'm good at and I
can't do it anymore.

MARGE

Oh, Homie. You're good at lots of
things.

HOMER

Like what?

MARGE

(TENDERLY) Like snuggling...

HOMER

Yeah, but none of my friends can watch
me.

Marge **MURMURS**.

Scene 22

INT. SPRINGFIELD CITY JAIL - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Steve Sax is in a cell, looking totally baffled. Eddie, Lou and Chief Wiggum are standing outside the cell looking at him.

CHIEF WIGGUM

Nice work, boys. I think we can close the book on just about every unsolved crime in our fair city.

STEVE SAX

Don't I at least get to call my lawyer?

WIGGUM

You watch too many movies, pally.

(NODS) Book him.

LOU

(TO SAX) You've chopped up your last seamstress, Sax.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Barney and Wade are in the middle of a fierce argument.

BARNEY

(ANGRY) And I say England's greatest prime minister was Lord Palmerston!

WADE BOGGS

(ANGRY) Pitt the Elder!

BARNEY

Lord Palmerston!

WADE BOGGS

Pitt the Elder!

Scene 22
cont

BARNEY

Okay, you asked for it, buddy!

Barney **DECKS** Boggs, knocking him unconscious.

MOE

That's showing him, Barney.

(SCORNFULLY) Pitt the Elder.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD GORGE - DAWN

Ozzie Smith stands at the gorge at sunrise taking pictures.

OZZIE SMITH

Ahh, dawn at Springfield Gorge. It's
everything the poets say it is.

He starts to take pictures with a motor drive camera.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

— Scene 23

Marge is sleeping with her head on Homer's chest. We see
Homer's wide-open eyes peeking out over her hair.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie sit in the living room wearing
baseball caps. Marge has binoculars. They have a "We're
#1" finger and a video camera. Homer enters in his
uniform.

HOMER

Where do you think you're going?

LISA

To the game.

HOMER

(DISTRAUGHT) No, no, no! Please,
spare me that one humiliation. I don't
want you to see me sitting on my butt.

Scene 23
Cont

BART

We've seen it, dad.

MARGE

Homer, we followed you all season.

We're not going to desert you now.

HOMER

(TOUCHED) Really?

LISA

Yes. We'll still holler, "That's my
dad!" Only not as often and not as
loud.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD MYSTERY SPOT

We see a warehouse-style building with a ticket booth in front and a sign that reads: "Springfield Mystery Spot, Where Logic Takes a Holiday and All Laws of Nature Are Meaningless." Ozzie Smith steps up to the TICKET TAKER.

OZZIE SMITH

How long does it take to see this
thing? I'm kind of in a hurry.

TICKET TAKER

(WISE GUY VOICE) Hard to say, my
friend. Once you go in, you may never
come out.

OZZIE SMITH

Wow! One please.

Ozzie walks in and we hear him SCREAM off screen.

TICKET TAKER

(CHUCKLES)

Scene 24

EXT. PARK - SOFTBALL DIAMOND

The sign on the backstop says, "Today: Springfield Nuclear Plant vs. Shelbyville Nuclear Plant. League Championship Game." Burns and Smithers are watching a few players warm up for the game. Don Mattingly arrives in street clothes, carrying an equipment bag.

BURNS

Mattingly! For the last time, get rid of those sideburns!

DON MATTINGLY

Look, Mr. Burns. I don't know what you think sideburns are, but...

BURNS

(SHOUTING) Don't argue with me! Just get RID of them!

Mattingly looks puzzled. Burns walks up to Smithers.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Smithers, it's almost game time. Where the devil are my ringers?

SMITHERS

Sir, Mike Scioscia may not live through the night. Steve Sax is looking at six consecutive life sentences. And Ozzie Smith seems to have vanished off the face of the earth.

CUT TO:

INT. SPRINGFIELD MYSTERY SPOT

Ozzie Smith is caught in another dimension (resembling the Green Hornets moire pattern). He flails about SCREAMING. "E=MC2" flies by, and Ozzie takes a picture of it.

OZZIE SMITH

Cool!

BACK TO SCENE

BURNS

What about Clemens?

SMITHERS

Uh, sir... he's in no condition to
play.

Roger Clemens comes by, walking like a chicken and **FLAPPING**
his arms.

ROGER CLEMENS

Brock, bock, bock, bock. Brock, bock,
bock, bock.

BURNS

That damn hypnotist!

Burns looks around, then sees the Hypnotist.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Look what you've done! My starting
pitcher thinks he's a chicken! Make no
mistake, I'm going to report this to
the American Hypnotical Association.

The hypnotist starts to wave his watch in front of Mr.
Burns.

HYPNOTIST

I did a good job... a gooood job.

BURNS

Oh well, I guess it's not your fault...
you did a good job.

*Scene 24
cont*

— Scene 25

Scene 25
cont

Don Mattingly walks by, his sideburns trimmed all the way above his hairline.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(RAGE) I thought I told you to trim those sideburns! Go home! You're off the team! For good!

DON MATTINGLY

(GRIMLY) Fine.

Mattingly walks off.

DON MATTINGLY (CONT'D)

(MUTTERING) I still like him better than Steinbrenner.

SMITHERS

Sir, I'm afraid we're going to have to consider starting some of our real plant players.

BURNS

(WAILING) No! No! No! I'd sooner entrust my million dollars to a team of cross-eyed monkeys.

Burns turns and notices all the power plant employees staring at him.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Well, what are you waiting for? Go get 'em!

The men **CHEER** and run onto the field. Burns stops Homer.

BURNS (CONT'D)

No so fast, Simpson.

Scene 26

We see Darryl Strawberry enter the frame backing up to catch a flyball.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

I got it!... I got it!... I got it!

He jumps upwards, out of frame. He catches the ball and drops back into frame.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY (CONT'D)

Yeah.

He then throws the ball and trots out of frame again.

BURNS

(TO HOMER) The man who plays your position is still here.

Homer sadly goes back to the bench.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(TO SMITHERS) Well Smithers, all my ringers are gone but one. And you know what? I like it. Because now it's up to me. I'm going to use every managerial trick in the book to win this game.

SMITHERS

You could outmanage the devil himself, sir.

IN THE STANDS

The Simpsons see the power plant employees take the field except for Homer -- Darryl Strawberry is in right field.

LISA

You stink Strawberry. We want Home-run Homer!

Scene 26
cont.

BART

(TAUNTING) Dar-ryl, Dar-ryl, Dar-ryl.

MARGE

Children, that's not very nice.

LISA

Mom, they're professional athletes.

They're used to this sort of thing. It
rolls right off their backs.

CUT TO:

A single tear runs down Darryl Strawberry's face. He wipes
it away.

CLOSE UP - LINE-UP CARD

— Scene 27

All the ringers' names have been crossed out and replaced
by power plant employees, except for Darryl Strawberry.
PULL OUT to reveal Mr. Burns is handing the card to the
UMPIRE. The ball park is full of SPECTATORS.

BURNS

So Ari, did you bring your million
dollars?

ARI

Yes.

He opens a briefcase revealing it contains a million
dollars.

BURNS

Very good. Here's mine.

Burns opens a similar briefcase.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(TO UMPIRE) Would you be good enough to
hold these until after the game?

Score 27
cont.

UMPIRE #1

Of course.

Burns and Ari hand him the cases. They turn to leave. The umpire runs off with the briefcases. Burns turns and sees him.

BURNS

Smithers! Kill the ump.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SOFTBALL DIAMOND - A LITTLE LATER

The game has started.

IN THE STANDS

The PEANUT VENDOR is throwing bags of peanuts around and missing the people he's aiming for by a mile. We see him flip a bag behind his back and it **HITS** a MAN who is sitting a few feet away in the side of the face.

ON THE FIELD

Peanut bags land on the pitcher's mound.

IN THE PARKING LOT

A peanut bag lands on top of a car.

CLOSE-UP - SCOREBOARD - FIFTH INNING

Burns' team is losing 27 to 24.

ON THE FIELD

The bases are loaded for Burns' team. Darryl Strawberry is advancing to the plate. Burns stops him.

BURNS

You! Strawberry, hit a home run.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Okay, Skip!

Strawberry goes up to the plate and **HITS** the first pitch onto a freeway.

Scene 27
cont.

BURNS

(TO SMITHERS) I told him to do that.

SMITHERS

Brilliant strategy, sir.

We see Homer sitting alone on the bench and hear the crowd
ROAR.

DISSOLVE TO:

- Scene 28

IN THE STANDS

Maggie has the "We're #1" hand on her head. Marge is
filming Homer sitting gloomily on the bench.

THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

We see Homer start to scratch himself like a ball player.

MARGE (V.O.)

Oh, dear.

The camera quickly turns away.

BACK TO SCENE

MARGE

Children, tell me when your father
stops scratching himself. (LONG BEAT)
Kids?

BART

We'll tell ya, mom.

CLOSE-UP - SCOREBOARD - 9TH INNING

It is the bottom of the ninth. The score is 43 to 43.

ON THE FIELD

The bases are loaded. Darryl Strawberry is walking up to
the plate.

*Scene 28
cont*

BURNS

All right, bases loaded, Strawberry coming up... What's wrong with this picture? I've got to make a one million dollar decision. Smithers, massage my brain.

SMITHERS

Yes, sir.

Smithers begins massaging the back of Burns' head. Strawberry goes into his left-handed stance.

BURNS (CONT'D)

A lefty, eh?... (THINKS)... Wait!

(CALLING) You! Strawberry!

Strawberry comes running back eagerly.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

Yeah, Skip?

BURNS

Good effort today. Take a lap and hit the showers. I'm putting in a right-handed batter to hit for you.

SMITHERS

(SHOCKED) What?

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

You're pinch-hitting for me?

*Scene 28
cont*

BURNS

Yes. You see, you're a left-hander.
And so is the pitcher. If I send up a
right-handed batter, it's called
playing the percentages. It's what
smart managers do to win ballgames.

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

But I've got nine home runs today.

BURNS

Sit down! Simpson! You're batting for
Strawberry.

HOMER

I am? Whoo-hoo!

Homer strides down the bench.

CARL

Atta boy, Homer.

LENNY

You can do it.

ROGER CLEMENS

Brock, bock, bock, bock!

Homer heads for the plate. Burns pulls him aside.

— Scene 29

BURNS

Simpson, let's go over the signals.

Burns gestures to accompany the following.

*Scene 29
cont.*

BURNS (CONT'D)

If I tug the bill of my cap like so, it means the signal is a fake. However, I can take that off by dusting my hands thusly. If I want you to bunt, I will touch my belt buckle not once, not twice, but thrice...

During the following we PAN TO Homer's brain.

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)

I can't understand a word he's saying. Why doesn't he just let me bat? I wish I was home with a big bag of potato chips... Mmm potato chips.

BACK TO SCENE

BURNS

(FINISHING) Got that Simpson?

HOMER

Yes, sir!

Homer strides to the plate.

SFX: DRAMATIC MUSIC

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Now batting for Darryl Strawberry,
Homer Simpson.

IN THE STANDS

The Simpsons CHEER. The rest of the crowd BOOS.

Scene 29
cont

ON THE FIELD

At the plate, Homer takes his stance. He notices Burns signaling him from the dugout. Burns goes through a complicated series of gestures and wild gyrations. Homer looks puzzled.

HOMER

Huh?

Suddenly a blazing fastball **HITS** Homer in the side of the head. He **DROPS** onto the plate like he's been shot.

IN THE STANDS

- Scene 30

MARGE

Oh, dear.

LISA

No mom, it counts as a hit.

MARGE

(WORRIED) Well, I guess he'll be happy
when he comes to.

MONTAGE

A.) The players advance one base in SLOW MOTION, jumping up and down with excitement.

B.) Burns and Smithers are hugging each other.

C.) Aristotle Amadopolis is beating his players over the head with his hat and CURSING them in Greek.

D.) The winning runner has to push an unconscious Homer off the plate so he can tag it.

E.) A MAN in the upper deck is CHEERING. A peanut bag hits him in the face and knocks him backwards over the railing.

F.) Darryl Strawberry is jumping up and down. PAN DOWN to see Lenny giving him a hot foot.

G.) Burns suddenly stops CHEERING and a strange expression appears on his face.

Scene 30
Coal

CLOSE UP - CHECK

It is made out to "Montgomery Burns" for "\$1,000,000.00."

ON BURNS

BURNS

You know, Smithers, I just realized
that after paying off my ringers, I
only made five hundred and fifty
thousand dollars out of this. All this
effort has been for not. How ironic!

(INSANE LAUGH)

H.) Jubilant PLAYERS carry an unconscious Homer off the
field, a la the Ayatollah.

I.) A team photo of the whole Burns All Star Team, with the
league championship trophy and Homer still unconscious in
the foreground.

Under the closing credits is a parody version of "Talking
Baseball" to be written by Jeff Martin and sung, if
possible, by Terry Cashman.

CASHMAN (V.O.)

(SINGING) "Specially Hooooooooomer...

Smithers and The Straw...

FADE OUT.

THE END